



SAVOY

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Savoy is situated at an elevation of 1800' on the Hoosac Range of the Green Mountains in Berkshire County and its history begins with a real estate fraud. When the state needed money in 1762, it auctioned off ten township sites, but the successful bidder for Savoy asked for his money back, saying that the land was not as advertised. The six square mile territory was then awarded in 1771 by the General Court to Colonel William Bullock of Rehoboth, in consideration of services rendered by veterans of the French and Indian Wars of the 1640's. The Colonel represented the heirs of these colonial soldiers. Because of the town's connection to the French and Indian Wars, it was particularly appropriate that the head of the Indian warrior chief, King Philip, was displayed in the Leonard house in Savoy after the famous fighter was slain in battle. The first settlement of the town was made in 1777 by a Mr. Robinett and by the end of the Revolutionary War, 35 families lived in Savoy. The town was formally incorporated in 1797 and given its name, historians conjecture, because of its resemblance to the mountainous country of Savoy in Europe. The town is mountainous with soil better adapted to grazing than raising grains and is well watered.

By the 19th century, Savoy was showing a remarkable diversity of industry with new-fangled steam sawmills, box manufacturers, tanneries, printing shops and a large lumber mill along with three hotels. Equally diverse was the town's religious thought with Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists, Adventists and Shakers all worshiping in Savoy. The Mormon Prophet Joseph Smith himself, lived and proselytized in Savoy for a time around 1810, before moving on. Savoy's men fought in the wars of their country. In the Civil War, seventy Savoy men carried arms for the North and 11 died of wounds or disease.

Savoy includes the beautiful Tannery Falls, mineral springs and the huge Savoy State Forest, which is considered one of the beauty spots of the region and contains magnificent views of the purple hills. Sportsmen in the 20th century have found the Westford River in Savoy an excellent fly-fishing river.

(Narrative compiled from historical materials)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Florida on the north, Hawley on the east, Windsor on the south, and Cheshire and Adams on the west. Savoy is 24 miles northeast of Pittsfield and 125 miles northwest of Boston.

Total Area: 36.01 sq. miles

Land Area: 35.87 sq. miles

Population: 634

Density: 18 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Windsor, Plainfield, North Adams, Rowe

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 743-4290

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1797

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	376		
Democrats	56	14.9	%
Republicans	38	10.1	%
Other parties	1	0.3	%
Unenrolled Voters	281	74.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Savoy town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	705	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	705	100.0
Male.....	378	53.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	5	0.7
Female.....	327	46.4	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	43	6.1	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	50	7.1	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	48	6.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	4	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	42	6.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	700	99.3
20 to 24 years.....	27	3.8	White alone.....	683	96.9
25 to 34 years.....	92	13.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	123	17.4	Total population.....	705	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	133	18.9	In households.....	702	99.6
55 to 59 years.....	36	5.1	Householder.....	287	40.7
60 to 64 years.....	39	5.5	Spouse.....	173	24.5
65 to 74 years.....	36	5.1	Child.....	196	27.8
75 to 84 years.....	28	4.0	Own child under 18 years.....	162	23.0
85 years and over.....	8	1.1	Other relatives.....	14	2.0
Median age (years).....	39.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	3	0.4
18 years and over.....	533	75.6	Nonrelatives.....	32	4.5
Male.....	276	39.1	Unmarried partner.....	21	3.0
Female.....	257	36.5	In group quarters.....	3	0.4
21 years and over.....	519	73.6	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	96	13.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	3	0.4
65 years and over.....	72	10.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	36	5.1	Total households.....	287	100.0
Female.....	36	5.1	Family households (families).....	202	70.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	89	31.0
One race.....	697	98.9	Married-couple family.....	173	60.3
White.....	687	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	71	24.7
Black or African American.....	5	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	16	5.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	3	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	10	3.5
Asian.....	-	-	Nonfamily households.....	85	29.6
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	67	23.3
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	20	7.0
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	94	32.8
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	52	18.1
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.45	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.90	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	326	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	287	88.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	39	12.0
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	13	4.0
Some other race.....	2	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	8	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	-	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	287	100.0
White.....	693	98.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	266	92.7
Black or African American.....	7	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	21	7.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	1.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.47	(X)
Asian.....	-	-	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.10	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	4	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Savoy is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 8A, which connects with cross-State Route 9 in neighboring Windsor, and State Route 116.

Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service in Savoy, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Savoy is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

Harriman & West Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in the neighboring town of North Adams, has a 4,300'x 100' asphalt runway.
Instrument approaches available: None.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.